range of initiatives relating to street children etc. can now be supported under the revised programme including those relating to shelter, nutrition, health care, sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water, education, recreational facilities and protection against abuse and exploitation.

(c) The Scheme will not be implemented by Government directly. While the earlier Scheme for Welfare of Street Children was being implemented through Non Government Organisations (NGOs) only, by providing 90% of the cost of projects as grant-in-aid to them, under the revised programme, in addition to NGOs, the State Governments, Union Territory administrations, Local Bodies and educational institutions are also eligible for financial assistance.

Violation of Constitutional Provisions

1182. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry examines the violations of the provisions of Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution;

(b) whether Government are aware that Muslims as a social group (not as religious group) are subject to discrimination and unequal treatment in the matter of social justice in terms of Article 15 of the Constitution;

(c) whether Government are aware that the representation of Muslims as a social group is grossly inadequate in services; and

(d) what are the criteria to know whether a section is adequately or inadequately represented in services within the meaning of Article 16 of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such case has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the provisions of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution, equality of opportunity should be provided to all citizens in matters relating to employment under the State and no discrimination shall be made on grounds only of religion, race, caste,

sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them. Since recruitment is not made on the basis of race, community, religion, place of birth, etc., no religion-wise data relating to Central Govearnment employees is maintained.

Legislation for reservation of Seats in Parliament and State Legislatures for OBCs

1183. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation for reservation of seats in Parliament and State Legislatures for the members belonging to OBC category; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and in what manner Government propose to improve the representation of OBCs in State Legislatures and Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. Legislation for reservation of seats in Parliament and State Legislatures for OBCs is a policy matter and may require detailed consultation with the political parties for arriving at a consensus amongst other things before a view is taken by the Government in this regard.

Constitutional Benefits to SCs for Conversion

1184. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to extend the Constitutional benefits available to Scheduled Castes to converts from these Castes to Christiantiy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): The matter is being examined alongwith all such proposals received from various States Union Territory Administration in the light of modalities approved by the Cabinet Committee on Scheduled